



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,868	12/16/2004	Daniel Decropet	33955US99PCT	2902
22850	7590	08/03/2009	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			MCDONALD, RODNEY GLENN	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			1795	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/03/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/517,868	Applicant(s) DECROUPET ET AL.
	Examiner Rodney G. McDonald	Art Unit 1795

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,4,5,12,19-21,49-61 and 63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,4,5,12,19-21,49-61 and 63 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 19, 21 and 49-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stachowiak (US PGPUB 2003/0170466 A1) in view of Lingle (U.S. Pat. 6,445,503).

Regarding claim 1, Stachowiak teaches a method for the production of a glazing provided with a multilayer coating, the multilayer coating being deposited on a glass substrate by sputtering. (See Fig. 2; Paragraph 0026-0043, 0045, 0046) A first transparent dielectric layer is deposited on the substrate followed by the deposit of a functional layer of a Ag-based infrared reflective material. (Paragraph 0026-0043)

Deposited on the Ag based functional layer is a first protective layer with a geometric thickness of 3 nm at maximum and composed of a material, of which the electronegativity different from oxygen is less than 1.9 and of which the electronegativity value is less than that of the infrared reflective material. (Paragraph 0031, 0036, First Table - 16 Angstroms (i.e. 1.6 nm)) A second protective layer adjoining the first protective layer with a geometric thickness of 7 nm at a maximum and composed of a material of which the electronegativity different from oxygen is greater than 1.4, and that at least a second transparent dielectric layer is then deposited. (Paragraph 0032, 0033, 0037, 0038, 0045)

Regarding claim 4, Stachowiak teaches the first protective layer can be NiCrO_x which has an electronegativity value at least 0.05 less than that of the infrared reflective material. (Paragraph 0031, 0036, 0041)

Regarding claim 5, Stachowiak teaches that the material of the second protective layer (i.e. TiO_x) has a lower electronegativity value than the electronegativity value of the material of the first protective layer (i.e. NiCrO_x). (Paragraph 0031, 0032, 0036, 0037)

Regarding claim 12, Stachowiak teaches that the second protective layer is deposited in a thickness in the range of either 10-500 Angstroms or 10-900 Angstroms. (Paragraph 0045)

Regarding claim 19, Stachowiak teaches that at least two functional layers based on an infrared reflective material are deposited, each followed by the deposit of first and

second protective layers, and in that at least one intermediate dielectric layer is deposited between the functional layers. (Paragraphs 0027-0040)

Regarding claim 21, Stachowiak teaches toughening through heat treatment.
(Paragraph 0042)

Regarding claim 49, Stachowiak teaches the first protective layer can be NiCrO_x which has an electronegativity difference from oxygen is less than 1.8. (Paragraph 0031, 0036, 0041)

Regarding claim 50, Stachowiak teaches the first protective layer can be NiCrO_x which has an electronegativity difference from oxygen is less than 1.7. (Paragraph 0031, 0036, 0041)

Regarding claim 51, Stachowiak teaches the second protective layer (i.e. TiO_x) can be composed of a material of which the electronegativity difference from oxygen is greater than 1.6. (Paragraph 0032, 0037)

Regarding claim 52, Stachowiak teaches the second protective layer (i.e. TiO_x) can be composed of a material of which the electronegativity difference from oxygen is greater than 1.8. (Paragraph 0032, 0037)

Regarding claim 53, Stachowiak teaches that the material of the second protective layer (i.e. TiO_x) has an electronegativity value at least 0.1 less than the electronegativity value of the material of the first protective layer (i.e. NiCrO_x).
(Paragraph 0031, 0032, 0036, 0037)

Regarding claim 54, Stachowiak teaches that the material of the second protective layer (i.e. TiO_x) has an electronegativity value at least 0.2, less than the

electronegativity value of the material of the first protective layer (i.e. NiCrOx).
(Paragraph 0031, 0032, 0036, 0037)

Regarding claim 55, Stachowiak teaches that the first protective layer is NiCr-based. (Paragraph 0041)

Regarding claims 59, 60, 61, Stachowiak teaches that the first protective layer can be deposited at 1.6 nm. (See First Table)

The difference between Stachowiak and the present claims is that depositing the first protective layer in an atmosphere containing 20% oxygen at a maximum is not discussed (Claim 1), depositing the second protective layer in an atmosphere containing 20% oxygen at a maximum is not discussed (Claim 1), utilizing an 80/20 alloy is not discussed (Claim 56), the material of the second protective layer being selected from titanium, aluminum or tantalum is not discussed (Claim 57), and the material of the second protective layer being titanium is not discussed (Claim 58).

Regarding depositing the first protective layer in an atmosphere containing 20% oxygen (Claim 1), Lingle suggest depositing NiCrO in an atmosphere containing 20% oxygen at a maximum. (See Table III)

Regarding depositing the second protective layer in an atmosphere containing 20% oxygen at a maximum (Claim 1), Lingle teaches depositing TiOx in an atmosphere containing 20% oxygen at a maximum. (See Table III)

Regarding claim 56, Lingle teaches utilizing an 80/20 alloy of NiCr. (Column 10 lines 9-14)

Regarding claim 57, Lingle teaches utilizing TiO_x where x<2.0. Here the examiner interprets less than 2.0 to include 0. (See Table II)

Regarding claim 58, Lingle teaches utilizing TiO_x where x<2.0. Here the examiner interprets less than 2.0 to include 0. (See Table III)

The motivation for utilizing the features of Lingle is that it allows for depositing durable heat treatable layers. (See Abstract)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Stachowiak by utilizing the features of Lingle is that it allows for depositing heat treatable layers.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stachowiak in view of Lingle as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 19, 21 and 49-61 above, and further in view of Szczyrbowski et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,279,722).

The difference between Lingle and the present claims is that a titanium based protective layer deposited to terminate the multilayer coating is not discussed (claim 20).

Regarding claim 20, Szczyrbowski et al. suggest terminating a coating stack with a titanium based protective layer. (See Abstract)

The motivation for utilizing the features of Szczyrbowski et al. because it allows for producing panes with high reflectivity. (See Abstract)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the features of Szczyrbowski et al. because it allows for producing panes with high reflectivity.

Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stachowiak in view of Lingle as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 19, 21 and 49-61 above, and further in view of Farmer et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,973,511).

The difference not yet discussed is the second protective layer being deposited in an atmosphere containing a maximum of 10% oxygen (Claim 63).

Regarding claim 63, Farmer et al. teach depositing a first protective layer in an atmosphere containing a maximum of 10% oxygen. (i.e. 1 sccm for 31 total sccm of gas) (Column 13 lines 21-30)

The motivation for utilizing a low amount of oxygen during reactive sputtering is that it prevents damaging the silver layer by oxidation. (Column 13 lines 25-26)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the features of Farmer et al. because it allows for preventing damaging of the silver layer by oxidation.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 26, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the argument that Stachowiak does not teach the titanium dioxide layer is a protective layer, it is argued that since the titanium dioxide layer is the same material as Applicant's and since it covers the NiCrO_x layer it is regarded as a protective film. (See Stachowiak discussed above)

In response to the argument that Stachowiak fails to teach depositing a TiO_x layer in a low oxygen content atmosphere, it is argued that the secondary reference to

Lingle teach depositing a TiOx layer in a low oxygen content atmosphere. The motivation for utilizing the features of Lingle is that it allows for forming heat treatable coatings. (See Stachowiak and Lingle discussed above)

In response to the argument that Lingle does not teach two protective layers above the silver layer, it is argued that above silver layer (c) there are at least two protective layers (i.e. NiCrOx, TiOx) above the silver layer. (See Lingle discussed above)

In response to the argument that Lingle does not provide motivation for depositing a TiOx layer in 20% oxygen, it is argued that Lingle teach depositing a TiOx layer in an atmosphere of 18% oxygen. The motivation for utilizing those conditions is that it allows for forming heat treatable coatings. (See Lingle discussed above)

In response to the argument that Farmer et al. does not teach forming a second protective layer above the first protective layer, it is argued that Stachowiak teach depositing a second protective layer over the first protective layer. (See Stachowiak discussed above)

In response to the argument that Farmer et al. teach utilizing a PET substrate and not a glass substrate, it is argued that the primary reference suggest the substrate be made of glass. (See Stachowiak discussed above)

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney G. McDonald whose telephone number is 571-272-1340. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th with every Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rodney G. McDonald/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795

Rodney G. McDonald
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1795

RM
July 30, 2009